

## **East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council Update – October/November 2024**

### **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Thank you to everyone who turned out to vote at the Referendum which was held on 5<sup>th</sup> September. Given the very wet and windy day the turnout percentage was very high for a Referendum. The next stage is for the Plan to go before Wealden District Council on 16<sup>th</sup> October for formal adoption. A huge amount of thanks needs to be given to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – all of whom are volunteers. A significant number of hours were put towards achieving our Neighbourhood Plan and we are exceptionally grateful to members of the group for their time and hard work and for the community for helping to shape the Plan.

### **Why is a Neighbourhood Plan so important for us?**

Neighbourhood planning enables communities to play a much stronger role in shaping the areas in which they live and work and in supporting new development proposals. They provide the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their Neighbourhood Plan area to develop over a period of time.

Communities that draw up Neighbourhood Plans will receive an uncapped 25% of planning levy charged on new developments in their Neighbourhood Plan area. This is known as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL is levied on the gross internal floor space of the liable development, and expressed as £164 per square metre. The money can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure including new or safer road schemes, flood defences, schools, hospitals and other health and social care facilities, park improvements, green spaces and leisure centres. Parishes without a Neighbourhood Plan receive 15% of CIL capped at £100 per dwelling with an annual cap on the amount that can be paid.

### **Roadworks**

And on and on they go. The roadworks from Graywood Road running through to Juziers are to install ducting for a new electricity cable which, we are informed, will improve the electricity supply to some properties in East Hoathly. Once the ducting is laid the roadworks will be back in the new year to enable the cable to be pulled through. We are also informed by Redrow that further roadworks are scheduled for London Road – once we have details we will post on our website and on Facebook.

Please note that the block pave sections near the village corner and on Waldron Road will be replaced once the roadworks have been completed (December). The pavers will be securely stored and any broken ones are being replaced. The black tarmac in these sections is TEMPORARY.

### **Verges and Wildflowers**

At our last Full Council meeting we voted to remove wildflower status from a number of verges in the Parish and to increase the mowing schedule in 2025. This is in direct response to a number of approaches made by residents concerned about the appearance of the Parish. We do intend to add planted areas around the two benches by the bus stops in East Hoathly.

### **High Street Cherry Trees**

We are still intending to replace the Cherry Trees on the High Street this winter and we are working with suppliers to get this achieved.

### **New Bus Shelters**

ESCC are replacing the bus shelters close to The Mews and Rectory Close and, after consultation with the Parish Council, a wooden design has been chosen for both taking into account their location within the Conservaton Area of East Hoathly. The bus shelter on the Rectory Close side will move down slightly to align with the raised curb and the bus shelter on The Mews side will be replaced with a narrower sheltered bench to enable better accessibility without blocking the footway and better visibility of approaching buses. We are assured by ESCC that we will be getting electronic Real Time Passenger Information Boards (RTPIs) showing the arrival time of the next scheduled bus – but we do not have a timescale for their installation.

### **Garden Plots**

The Garden Plots have a new name and will now be called Garden Allotments. The hedge between the garden allotments and Harrison's Field is to get a haircut to avoid further encroachment onto the gardens and to provide more light.

### **Work at the Playing Field**

A contractor will shortly start work on the playing field to tidy up the boundary and conduct some tree work that has been highlighted in our annual tree inspection.

### **The Woods**

A small amount of tree work will shortly take place in the parish woodland found between Nightingales and the Garden Allotments. To help people walking in the wood a boardwalk is going to be installed over the entrance area which becomes very boggy during the winter months.

### **A new sign for Halland**

We are in the process of commissioning a traditional village sign for Halland. A location has been chosen and we are working with ESCC Highways regarding permissions and with potential suppliers on design and installation.

## The Project

A Working Group is being established to work towards the Pavilion and Playing Fields Re-Development Project. The Group will include representatives from groups who use the Pavilion and members of the Community. If you would like to be part of this exciting project please contact our Clerk. We aim to have a pavilion that we can be proud of and a playing field that can be used all year round with great facilities for all users, and yes, we are going to sort out the drainage issues.

## Grants

The Parish Council has recently voted to provide grants to the Uckfield Citizens Advice Bureau and to the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance – both of whom have provided assistance within our area. If you run an organisation and would like to make an application for a Grant please see our website for more details.

## Christmas Trees

The Parish Council is funding the installation and decoration of Christmas Trees for both East Hoathly and Halland.

## Sub-Station Update

Two electricity substations are being built near Little Horsted (Crockstead), one for National Grid and one for UK Power Networks. The development will provide a new connection for UK Power Networks and a continued safe and secure supply of electricity to local homes and businesses.

As part of the project National Grid have purchased 9.7 hectares of additional land off Palehouse Common and Sand Hill Lane. This land will replace any habitats lost. When National Grid began work at the substation, they pledged that all clearance would be offset through future planting.

National Grid will make improvements to this parcel of land between now and spring 2025 to benefit protected species. This includes scrub and hedge planting, fruit tree planting, wildflower meadow creation, pond enhancements, the installation of bat and bird boxes and erection of deer fencing. A five-year maintenance plan and monitoring schedule will also be put in place.

National Grid will start work to improve the fields soon, beginning with a topsoil strip. They need to take off the topsoil and rotavate the earth to reduce the nutrient level to achieve a wildlife meadow. Rather than remove the soil off site, they'll create some earth mounds which will be used for the planting areas. The work involves some plant and equipment including excavators, dumpers and chainsaws. They will implement environmental control measures to control dust and noise. There may be some hedge trimming at the access point on Sand Hill Lane and around the pond. They'll also erect protective deer fencing. They expect to do some tree planting before Christmas.

National Grid hope it will become an eco-rich area of land which will benefit the local environment for years to come. It is part of their Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) commitments, to ensure any of our new developments contribute positively to biodiversity enhancement, community wellbeing and environmental preservation.

If you have any queries, please contact the National Grid community relations team for free on 0800 073 1047 or via [nationalgridteam@jbp.co.uk](mailto:nationalgridteam@jbp.co.uk) They're available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm with an answering service in place outside of these times. The project website is <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricitytransmission/network-and-infrastructure/little-horsted>.

## Our Meetings

The next Full council meeting will be held on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October**. A further meeting will be held on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November** and there is no meeting currently scheduled in December.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee will meet on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November** and at this meeting we will be working towards setting our Budget for 2025/6 ready for Full Council discussion and approval.

The Planning Committee meets as needed.

All meetings are held at 7pm in the Village Hall unless the Agenda states otherwise. If you would like to put forward an item for consideration for inclusion on the Agenda, please contact the Clerk.

Members of the public and press are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. At the start of each meeting, the first 15 minutes of the meeting are available to the public to express a view or ask a question on relevant matters on the agenda. Members of the public and press are also welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting (subject to any items considered confidential with the terms of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960).

## Want to be kept up to date or contact us?

If you would like to contact the Parish Council and/or join our email list and be kept up to date about future meetings and newsletters, please contact the Clerk (07948 496760) and/or [clerk@easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk](mailto:clerk@easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk).